AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of transferring data from a first application having a legacy data base located with a legacy data base management system with a first format to a second application located within said legacy data base management system employing a second format which is incompatible with said first format under control of a user terminal which provides a client with in interface to said legacy data base management system comprising:

   a. determining said first format associated with said data from said legacy data base of said first application;

   b. ascertaining a location of said data within said legacy data base;

   c. packing an identifier of said first format and an identifier of said location within said legacy data base of said first application into a message having a predefined format;

   d. transferring said message from said first application to said second application via said legacy data base management system;

   e. unpacking said message to determine said first format and said location within said legacy data base of said first application; and

   f. accessing said data by said second application using said indication of said first format and said indication of said location within said legacy data base of said first application.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said data further comprises a plurality of data objects.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein said predefined format further comprises Extended Markup Language.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said transferring step further comprises transferring via a publically accessible digital data communication network.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus having a plurality of computers providing data processing functions comprising:

   a. a first application program located within a first computer and having a data base with a first format;

b. a second application program located within a second computer and having a legacy data base with a second format which is incompatible with said first format responsively coupled to said first application program;

c. a message having a preexisting format generated by said first application program for transfer to said second application program;

d. a data object responsively coupled to said first application program having an indication of a location and having ~~a~~ an indication of said second format; and

e. wherein said message contains a definition of said location and said second format.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising a publically accessible digital data communication network wherein said first application program is responsively coupled to said second application program via said publically accessible digital data network.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said preexisting format further comprises Extended Markup Language.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a user terminal which provides a client with in interface to said legacy data base management system containing said first application program.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus which provides communication between a first application program and a second application program comprising:

a. first application program, the first application program ~~means for~~ providing a user interface via a user terminal which permits a client to interface with a computer system;

b. second application program, the second application program being ~~means~~ responsively coupled to said first application program ~~means for~~ and offering a data processing service;

c. data object, the data object being ~~means~~ responsively coupled to said first application program ~~means~~ and having a location and a format; and

d. a message generator, the message generator being ~~generation means~~ responsively coupled to said first application program, the message generator further ~~means for~~ preparing a message having a preexisting format for transfer of said location and format of said data object means from said first application program ~~means~~ to said second application program ~~means~~.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said first application program ~~providing means~~ further ~~comprises means for generating~~ permits the generation of a second service request.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 12 further comprising a publically accessible digital data communication network which ~~means for~~ responsively ~~coupling~~ couples said first application program ~~means~~ and said second application program ~~means~~.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network ~~means~~ further comprises the Internet.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said preexisting format further comprises Extended Markup Language.

16. (Previously Presented) A data processing system having a first application program located within a first computer and having a data base with a first format responsively coupled to a second application program located within a second computer and having a legacy data base with a second format comprising:

    a. a data object having an indication of a location of said legacy data base within said second computer and an indication of said second format of said legacy data base;
    b. a message having a preexisting format for transfer from said first application program to said second application program; and
    c. wherein said message contains said location of said legacy data base within said second computer and a definition of said second format.

17. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 16 further comprising a publically accessible digital data communication network which responsively couples said first application program to said second application program.

18. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 17 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

19. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 18 further comprising a user terminal housing said first application program.

20. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 19 wherein said preexisting format further comprises Extended Markup Language.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus including a data processing system comprising:

a. a user terminal which provides a client with an interface to said data processing system having a first application program;

b. a second application program responsively coupled to said first application program via a publically accessible digital data network;

c. a message having a preexisting Extended Markup Language format generated by said first application program for transfer to said second application program;

d. a data object responsively coupled to said first application program having a location and having a second format which is incompatible with said preexisting Extended Markup Language; and

e. wherein said message contains a definition of said location and said second format.